

## LABOR FEDERATION WILL CONDUCT CAMPAIGN TO ORGANIZE NATION'S WOMEN WORKERS

By Max Hayes.

Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 20.—A vigorous and aggressive campaign of organization will be waged by the American Federation of Labor among the women workers of the country as a partial result of the eloquent address delivered by Mrs. Raymond Robbins of Chicago, president of the National Womens' Trade Union league.

The present membership of the N. W. T. U. L. is upward of 50,000. As a sequel of the strikes of the shirtwaist makers in New York, the Ladies' Garment Workers in Cleveland and the Pearl Button Makers in Muscatine, Ia., the workers of the country have become greatly aroused and organization talk is rife everywhere.

As a result Mrs. Robbins and Secretary Agnes Nestor believe the league will have fully 100,000 members by the time the next federation convention meets. Then the women will quite likely ask for the formation of a distinct women's department similar to those existing in the building, metal and other industries.

"Women know what is best for women," declares Mrs. Robbins. "We know how to talk to and help our own sex, but we must have the co-operation of the men workers. Then we will succeed."

Women who are not wage earners are eligible to join the league, but all governing committees, national or local, must contain a majority of wage earners so that the organization may not

be diverted from the purpose for which it was formed.

There are 6,000,000 working women in this country, 250,000 in New York alone and half as many more in Chicago.

"Two generations ago," says Mrs. Robbins, "my grandmother operated a spinning wheel, but she knew the joy of living and work. While she taught her children the art of weaving and other duties of that day, she also taught them good morals, how to sing, to quote poetry and to love the beautiful."

"Now all is changed. Revolution in industry has transformed the handloom into a labor-saving, or rather labor-enslaving machine.

The young girls are taken from the home and herded in great factories by the thousands, out from under the watchful care of mother, to become mere cogs upon the industrial wheel that constantly increases its speed in grinding them into profits for a corporation or trust.

In this industrial feudalism the intellectual and moral powers are slowly choked to death, to the incalculable loss of the individual and society."

The league's rallying cry will be education, higher wages, shorter hours and better sanitary conditions. It appeals for the membership of all women toilers and for the unselfish co-operation of all good men and women who